

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1- 2, 4-5, and 7-8 are pending, Claims 1, 4, and 8 are amended; and Claim 6 is canceled by the present amendment. Support for the amendments is found in the originally filed claims and therefore no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 4 and 8 were objected to; Claims 1-2, 4-6, and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as anticipated by Yamakoshi et al. (U.S. 2001/0021422 A1, hereinafter Yamakoshi); and Claim 7 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Yamakoshi in view of Buchberger et al. (U.S. 2005/0178748 A1).

In reply, the objection to Claim 4 has been addressed by amending Claim 4 to change the dependency from Claim 3 to Claim 1. The outstanding Office Action objected to Claim 8 for improper dependency on a multiple dependent claim. However, Claim 8 does not depend from any other multiple dependent claim. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 8 be withdrawn. Claim 8 has been amended to remove dependency from canceled Claim 6.

Amended Claim 1 is directed to a radio frequency power supply structure for use in a device generating plasma. The structure has a plate-like electrode forming a longitudinal grid facing an earth electrode having two lateral electrodes, where the longitudinal electrodes are arranged to connect to the lateral electrodes. The structure supplies the plate-like electrode with radio frequency power from an RF cable where the core of the RF cable connects to the plate-like electrode at a connecting portion to form a smoothly curved continuous surface.

The present inventors recognize that by connecting to the ladder electrode by forming a smoothly curved continuous surface, a sudden change of the impedance due to a

discontinuous change of the power stream passage can be avoided and the reflection of the radio frequency power can be further produced.¹

The outstanding Office Action asserts that Yamakoshi discloses all of the elements of Claim 1. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

As previously discussed, amended Claim 1 requires that the core cable of the RF cable connects to the plate-like electrode so as to form a smoothly curved continuous surface at said connecting portion. The outstanding Office Action asserts Figures 8 and 17 of Yamakoshi disclose a core cable of the RF cable connecting to the plate-like electrode so as to form a smoothly curved continuous surface at the connecting portion. However, Figures 8 and 17 merely disclose that the RF cable is connected to the ladder electrode through feeding points 9a and 9b.² Therefore, the cable in Yamakoshi is fed (i.e., inserted) into the electrode feeder points 9a and 9b forming a discontinuous surface. Yamakoshi neither teaches nor suggests that the core cable of the RF cable connects to the electrode so as to form a smoothly curved continuous surface at the connecting portion.

Accordingly, for the reasons stated above, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of Claim 1 and claims depending therefrom as anticipated by Yamakoshi.

The Official Action has rejected Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Yamakoshi in view of Buchberger. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. As outlined above, Yamakoshi does not disclose all of the elements of the amended pending claims for which it has been asserted. Buchberger does not remedy the deficiency discussed above as Buchberger neither teaches or suggests the core cable of the RF cable connecting to the plate-like electrode so as to form a smoothly curved continuous surface at the connecting portion. Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented.

¹ See specification page 38, line 400 to page 39, line 404.

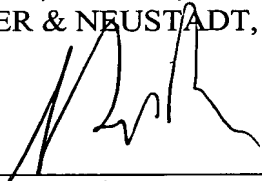
² See Yamakoshi at paragraphs [0142] and [0191].

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

Consequently, in view of the present response, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-2, 4-5, and 7-8 is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Andrew T. Harry
Registration No. 56,959

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 06/04)

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Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099